NEWCASTLE-EMLYN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Clerk to the Council .... IEUAN J. LUKE, LL.B.
Medical Officer ..... S. ROBERTS.
Public Health Inspector and Surveyor .... W. J. GRIFFITHS
Rating Officer ..... Mrs. P. M. DAVIES.

PUBLIC HEALTH REPORT FOR 1958

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,—

I beg to submit my annual report for the year ended December 31st, 1958.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area—208 acres.
Population—720.
Number of inhabited houses—269.
Rateable value— £11,070.
Product of a penny rate—£44.

Newcastle-Emlyn is a market town situated in the Teifi Valley in West Carmarthenshire, serving the needs of a scattered agricultural community living in the adjacent countryside, which includes a part of South Cardiganshire and of North Pembrokeshire. A milk products factory, a shirt factory, an egg-grading station, an omnibus depot, and various shops and businesses provide employment for a good number. A branch railway line for goods traffic runs to the town and there is a secondary modern school and one primary school in the area. The town possesses excellent facilities for the marketing of animals, and marts are held regularly. It is, in addition, a popular tourist and fishermen's resort and there is an influx of visitors during the holiday season. A fair proportion of residents have come to live here in retirement.

VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS. Total live births, 1 male (legitimate), giving a crude birth-rate of 1.3 per 1,000 population. The standardised birth-rate, used for comparison with the birth-rate of other areas, and calculated with the aid of a comparability factor (1.30) provided by the Registrar General, was 1.7 per 1,000. The birth-rate for England and Wales for 1958 was 16.4 per 1,000. There were no still-births, and no deaths of infants under four weeks or under one year of age. The still-birth rate for England and Wales was 21.6 for 1,000 total live and still births.

DEATHS. Deaths during the year totalled 15 (8 males and 7 females), giving a crude death-rate of 20.8 per 1,000 population. The standardised death-rate was 15.6 per 1,000 (comparability factor 0.75). The death-rate for England and Wales was 11.7 per 1,000.

The causes of death were :

	Males	Females
Cancer of stomach	1	0
Cancer of uterus	0	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system (strokes)	0	1
Heart disease, coronary	1	2
ditto other forms	1	0
Other circulatory disease	1	0
Influenza	1	0
Pneumonia	1	0
Bronchitis	2	0
Nephritis	0	1
Other diseases	0	2
	8	7

Average age at death — 74.2 years.

PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

Hospital, laboratory and ambulance facilities. The district is served mainly by the West Wales General Hospital, Carmarthen (20 miles distant), and Cardigan Hospital (10 miles), with provision for cases of infectious diseases at Tumble Isolation Hospital. Maternty beds are available at the two former hospitals. Cases of mental disease receive treatment at St. David's Hospital, Carmarthen. The nearest treatment centre for venereal diseases is at Llanelly.

Bacteriological and pathological investigations are carried out at the Public Health Laboratory, Penlan Road, Carmarthen, and the Pathological Department, Glangwili, respectively and the resources of these laboratories are always available to medical practitioners. Transport facilities are provided by ambulances based at Carmarthen and Llandyssul, the service being under the control of the County Council.

Home Nursing, Midwifery and Infant Welfare. Home nursing and midwifery are undertaken by one district nurse/midwife who is resident in the town. The County Council provides one health visitor for Newcastle-Emlyn and adjacent villages. An Infant Welfare Clinic is held here fortnightly. No ante-natal clinic has been estabished in Newcastle-Emlyn.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

I am pleased to report that the incidence of infectious diseases during 1958 was very low, three cases only having been notified. These were two of measles and one of pneumonia.

There were no deaths from tuberculosis during the year. The names of two females were removed from the register, one having recovered and the other left the district. The numbers on the Tuberculosis Register at the beginning and at the end of the year were :

Date.	Pulmonary.	Non-Pulmonary.	Total.
January 1, 1958	5 males, 2 females	.... 3 females	 10
December 12, 1958	5 males, 1 female	.... 2 females	 8

A mobile unit of the Mass Radiography Service visited Newcastle-Emlyn for the period May 28-30, advance publicity having been arranged through the Press, loud speakers, etc. A total of 383 persons were examined, of whom 15 (3.91%) were found to be abnormal.

A chest clinic is held in the town twice monthly, when the Chest Physician sees patients referred to him by local medical practitioners.

Protectve measures against infectious diseases, made available by the County Health Authority, now include diphtheria and whooping cough immunisation, smallpox, BCG, and poliomyelitis vaccination.

SANITARY CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Administration of Factories Acts, 1937 and 1948

Routine inspections performed by the Public Health Inspector during the year in connection with the above Acts were as folliws :—

(1) Inspeotions for purposes of provisions as to health—

Premises.	Number on Register.	Number of Inspections.	Written Notices.	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, are enforced by Local Authority	4	3	0	0
Factories not included above in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	23	18	0	0
Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	0	0	0	0
Total ..	27	21	0	0

(2) Cases in which defects were found : Nil.
(3) Outwork : Nil.

HOUSING. On the New Road site, six new houses were completed and occupied during the year, bringing the totol number built by this Authority, in the post-war period, to twelve. Erection of a further three houses is contemplated, in the near future. One application for an improvement grant under the Housing Act 1949, was received and approved.

WATER SUPPLY. The town is provided with an ample supply of wholesome water from the Cwm and Penbuarth reservoirs. No new work was undertaken during 1958. Samples of water were sent periodically for bacteriological examination to the Public Health Laboratory at Carmarthen, with the following results :

Date of sampling.	Place of sampling.	Result.
February 3, 1958	.. Domestic tap	.. Satisfactory
March 28, 1958	.. " "	.. Unsatisfactory
May 5, 1958	.. " "	.. Satisfactory
July 8, 1958	.. " "	.. "
September 18, 1958	.. " "	.. "
December 1, 1958	.. " "	.. Doubtful
December 9, 1958	.. " "	.. Satisfactory

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE. The sewerage system continues to operate without serious trouble, minor repairs being carried out as the necessity arises. Parts of the town are without a water carriage system. Public conveniences at the Market Place were renovated and improved during the year.

SCAVENGING AND RODENT CONTROL

Refuse is collected once weekly and conveyed to the dumping site, a quarter of a mile outside the town, by the Council's own covered refuse lorry, direct labour being employed. No rodent operator is now employed, cases of rat infestation being dealt with by our workmen under the supervision of the Public Health Inspector.

GENERAL REMARKS

I am pleased to report that the health of the community was maintained at a satisfactory level during 1958. The modest addition to the Council's property in New Road, and the completion of the New Emlyn Secondary Modern School by the Carmarthenshire County Council, are heartening signs at a time when there is concern about depopulation of rural areas.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

S. **ROBERTS**, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., L.M.S.S.A..
Medical Officer of Health.

D. Evans, Printer, Newcastle-Emlyn.